

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on October 18, 2011, has been received and its contents carefully considered. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11, 13, 17 and 19 are amended; claims 15-16 are cancelled; and claims 21-22 are added. Claims 1, 11, 13, 19 and 21-22 are the independent claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the phone interview of January 10, 2012.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-10 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner rejects the phrase “such that the first power transmission faces flatten at a slower rate than the second power transmission faces” as not being described in the specification (Office Action, page 2). Applicants have herein amended claim 1 to remove the rejected phrase, thereby obviating the Examiner’s rejection pertaining thereto.

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2. The Examiner states that these claims are indefinite and states that the phrase “wherein the first face and the second face are located on the circumferential surface of the elastic member” renders the phrase indefinite (Office Action, page 2). While applicant respectfully disagrees, these claims are nonetheless amended to expedite prosecution. In particular, claims 11 and 13 have been

amended to remove this phrase. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §112, ¶2 rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 8-10, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JA 2002-0145083 to Tanaka et al. ("*Tanaka*") in view of JA 2003-13989. Claim 6-7 are rejected as being unpatentable over *Tanaka* in view of JA 2003-13989 and U.S. Patent No. 2,135,634 to *Byrom* (hereinafter "*Byrom*"). Claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tanaka* in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2,034,001 to Ricefield (hereinafter "*Ricefield*").

Claims 16, 19 and 20 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 described above.

Applicant has herein amended claim 1 to include features from claim 16, and amended claim 19 into independent form, with modifications to overcome the §112 rejections and to clarify the subject matter. Applicant submits that these claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicant has also amended claims 11 and 13 to include features from claim 16. As indicated above, claim 16 includes allowable subject matter. Therefore, and as discussed with Examiner Boehler during the phone interview of January 10, 2011, claims 11 and 13 are amended to include the allowable subject matter from claim 16 and claim 1 from which claim 16 depends.

Applicant has also added claims 21-22. Claim 21 finds support for example from claim 11 and 19, and claim 22 finds support for example from claims 13 and 19. Claim 19 is indicated as including allowable subject matter. Applicant submits that claims 21-22 include such allowable subject matter.

In particular, these claims recite that first power transmission faces are disposed radially symmetrically with respect to a center of the annular main body of the elastic member. A pair of power transmission faces of each of a plurality of the engagement arms includes the first power transmission face and the second power transmission face, and a pair of power transmission faces of each of a plurality of the arms includes a pair of the second power transmission faces. Adjacent engagement arms that each include the first power transmission face and the second power transmission face are spaced closer together than adjacent engagement arms that each include a pair of the second power transmission faces. None of the cited references disclose or suggest these features.

Based on the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice, with allowed claims 1-15 and 17-22, earnestly is solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and is requested to advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



January 18, 2012
Date

Robert H. Berdo, Jr.
Registration No. 38,075
RABIN & BERDO, PC
Customer No. 23995
Telephone: 202-371-8976
Facsimile: 202-408-0924

RHB/SD/nz